



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 14, 2010

Ms. Susan Camp-Lee
Sheets & Crossfield, P.C.
For City of Round Rock
309 Main Street
Round Rock, Texas 78664-5246

OR2010-13934

Dear Ms. Camp-Lee:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 398638.

The City of Round Rock (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for information related to a fatal motorcycle accident. You state you have released some information to the requestor. You also state that you have redacted certain Texas motor vehicle record information under section 552.130 of the Government Code and insurance policy numbers under section 552.136 of the Government Code in accordance with Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).¹ You claim that some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This exception encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information if it (1) contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts, the publication

¹Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009) is a previous determination to all governmental bodies that authorizes withholding ten categories of information, including Texas driver's license numbers and Texas license plate numbers under section 552.130 of the Government Code, and insurance policy numbers under section 552.136 of the Government Code, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision.

of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) is not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be established. *See id.* at 681-82.

The types of information considered intimate or embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation* included information relating to sexual assault, pregnancy, mental or physical abuse in the workplace, illegitimate children, psychiatric treatment of mental disorders, attempted suicide, and injuries to sexual organs. *Id.* at 683. This office has found that personal financial information not relating to a financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body is generally protected by common-law privacy. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 600 (1992) (employee's designation of retirement beneficiary, choice of insurance carrier, election of optional coverages, direct deposit authorization, forms allowing employee to allocate pretax compensation to group insurance, health care or dependent care), 545 (1990) (deferred compensation information, participation in voluntary investment program, election of optional insurance coverage, mortgage payments, assets, bills, and credit history). Upon review, we find the information you have highlighted in green is highly intimate and embarrassing and not of legitimate public concern. Thus, the city must withhold this marked information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with the common-law right of privacy.

Next, you claim some of the remaining information, which you have marked in yellow, is confidential under section 552.130 of the Government Code. Section 552.130 provides that information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title, or registration issued by a Texas agency is excepted from public release. Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1), (2). Therefore, the city must withhold the Texas motor vehicle record information you have marked in yellow under section 552.130 of the Government Code. We have marked additional information that must be withheld under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city must withhold the information you have marked in green under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The city must withhold the information you have marked in yellow, and the additional information we have marked, pursuant to section 552.130 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released to the requestor.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php,

or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Nettles", written over a horizontal line.

Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/dls

Ref: ID# 398638

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)